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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

28 July 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation.

Enemy forces have continued heavy pressure in all sectors, and have made advances northeast of Hodang in the southern area, and in the vicinity of Ongchon in the east sector. North Korean forces have infiltrated in the areas of Kwan and Pungwang. The enemy is apparently trying to envelope the UN forces in the west and south coastal areas and in the east sector. Meanwhile, indications increase that substantial reserves are available to the North Koreans.

The Fourth North Korean Division has advanced four miles northeast of Hadong towards Chinju, in the southern area, after repulsing an attack by elements of the US Twenty-Fourth Infantry Division, which has withdrawn to the vicinity of Chinju. Enemy forces, estimated to be a battalion, have occupied the southern port of Yosu.

Along the Taejon-Kumchon axis in the west sector, the Second and Third North Korean Divisions have made slight gains near Kwangan. In the same sector, an estimated 200 enemy troops have infiltrated into the area near Kwan.

A second northern penetration occurred in the east sector two miles east of Pong-Hwang Mountain, where three enemy tanks and an unknown number of troops have been reported, probably elements of the Fifteenth North Korean Division. Along the front north of Hamchang, UN forces have prevented advances against enemy pressure. An attack by a regiment of the Seventh North Korean Division, however, has forced the Eighth ROK Division to withdraw in the vicinity of Ongchon.

South of Yongdok, on the east coast, an enemy counter-attack against South Korean and US forces has made no advance.

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In addition to the reported, but still unconfirmed, existence of a Ninth North Korean Division in the Chungju-Hungyong area, a junior officer prisoner of war states that five additional northern divisions may have been formed. Additional reserves may be available from the North Korean Border Constabulary, and unconfirmed reports indicate that the Third Border Constabulary Brigade is in reserve in Ongjin. Recruits, estimated to number 2500, were reportedly sent to the combat areas after three days' training near Seoul. Another report states that the North Koreans are planning to conscript 50,000 unmarried women in the occupied areas of South Korea for duty with the North Korean forces.

II. Other Developments.

The South Korean National Assembly has convened officially for the first time since leaving Seoul. Approximately 132 of the 210 members met in Taegu and heard President Rhee and Assembly Speaker Shin declare their confidence not only in a UN victory and return of the government to Seoul, but also in the abolishment of the 38th Parallel and the complete unification of the fatherland. At the same time, Radio Pyongyang broadcast an appeal allegedly adopted by 18 members of National Assembly in occupied Seoul asking the Assemblymen in Taegu to withdraw their support of Rhee and come over to the side of the "people."

Foreign correspondents of the Communist press of France, England, and China are present in North Korea and are inspecting the "character" of US bombing of the North. They report that the Americans are bombing from "above the clouds" and clearly engaging in "terror bombing designed to kill the peaceful inhabitants." The correspondents are obviously in Korea to provide material to support the general Communist line that the US is the aggressor against Asiatic peoples.

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